Reconstitution of Committee on International Trade Policy

3837. DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have reconstituted the Advisory Committee on International Trade under his Chairmanship to advise in the formulation of International Trade Policy;

(b) whether the panel has also been authorised to recommend strategies for increasing market access for Indian goods and analyse the implications of various changes in the global scenario; and

(c) if so, the details of their recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) The Government have reconstituted the Advisory Committee on International Trade *vide* Department of Commerce's Resolution no : 1/9/98-TPD dated 27th April, 2001. The Committee advises the Government in the formulation of International trade policy. The terms of reference of the Committee, *inter alia*, include discussing and giving inputs for the on going negotiations in the WTO, examining the non-tariff barriers being imposed by various countries against Indian goods and the action to be pursued to get them dismantled, recommending strategies for increasing market access for Indian goods, and analysing the implications of various changes taking place in the global scenario with a view to recommend suitable policy changes, etc.

A meeting of the reconstituted Advisory Committee on International Trade was held on 12th June, 2001. The Committee made various suggestions which, *inter alia*, included recommending a demand for a substantive review of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) so as to give necessary flexibility and domestic policy options to the developing countries. The committee also recommended pressing for the early upfront resolution of the implementation issues raised by the developing countries. The resolution of implementation issues is likely to lead to an increase in market access opportunities for Indian goods particularly in agriculture and textiles.